

was active along the Mississippi Delta before wet weather delayed harvest for several days near midmonth. Harvest progressed far behind normal throughout the month in Alabama and fell well behind the normal pace in Arkansas and Mississippi. Mostly dry weather favored harvest on the southern Great Plains, and harvest progressed with only brief rain delays on the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Harvest progressed ahead of normal in the Southwest, where warm, dry weather supported picking. On October 28, progress was 1 week behind last year, but only 1 percentage point behind the 5-year average of 60%.

Winter wheat planting and emergence progressed about 2 weeks ahead of last year's slow pace and about 1 week ahead of the 5-year average during most of the month. Seeding was aided by dry weather across most of the Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Planting progressed far ahead of normal in Kansas and Oklahoma and well ahead of normal in Montana and Texas. By October 28, planting was virtually complete in the central and northern Great Plains and approached completion in the southern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. In the Corn Belt, heavy precipitation halted seeding along the middle Mississippi and lower Ohio River Valleys near midmonth, and from the Ohio River Valley to the Great Lakes near the end of the month. In the lower Mississippi Valley and along the Atlantic Coastal Plain, planting was aided by dry weather after midmonth. Mostly adequate soil moisture and seasonal temperatures promoted germination and growth on the central Great Plains, while moisture shortages hindered emergence and growth in many areas of the northern and southern Great Plains. Emergence progressed far ahead of normal in Kansas and Oklahoma. In the Pacific Northwest, mid- and late-month storms provided much-needed moisture, but many areas remained unfavorably dry. Fields rapidly emerged in the eastern Corn Belt, where precipitation provided ample moisture to germinate seeds.

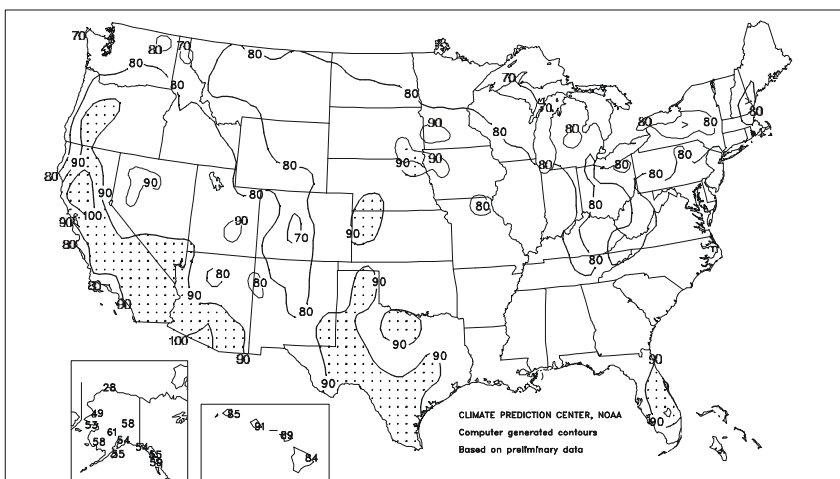
Ninety-three percent of the sorghum crop was mature on October 14, slightly ahead of the average progress of 91%. However, the crop ripened about 2 weeks later than last year's early pace. Fields rapidly matured on the central and southern High Plains early in the month, when temperatures averaged near normal. Meanwhile, below-normal temperatures hindered ripening of late-maturing fields in the southern Great Plains and Corn Belt. Harvest was aided by dry weather across the Great Plains most of the month, advancing well ahead of normal in Kansas and South Dakota. Harvest also advanced ahead of normal in the Corn Belt, especially in Illinois, until widespread, heavy rain interrupted progress near midmonth. On October 28, harvest was 85% complete, behind last year's 92-percent progress but well ahead of the average of 78%.

By October 14, the rice harvest was virtually complete along the western Gulf Coast. Harvest also approached completion in the interior Mississippi Valley, but midmonth storms temporarily delayed completion. Dry weather aided progress in California throughout the month.

The peanut harvest progressed ahead of last year and the average, to 84% complete on October 28. Digging progressed with few rain

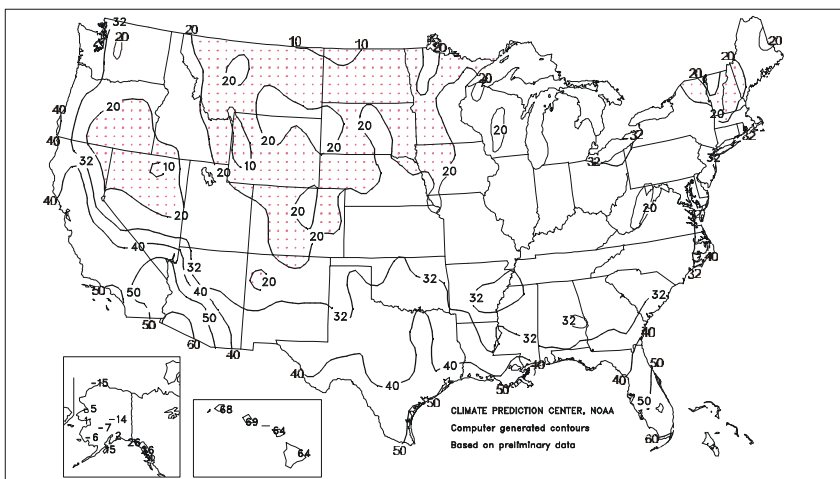
Extreme Maximum Temperature (°F)

October 2001



Extreme Minimum Temperature (°F)

October 2001



delays along the mid-Atlantic Coastal Plains and eastern Gulf Coast, although delays were briefly encountered in Alabama and Florida shortly after midmonth. Harvest was slow in the southern Great Plains early in the month, but progressed without delay after midmonth. By the end of the month, harvest was complete in Virginia and nearly complete in Florida and Georgia.

The sugar beet harvest advanced ahead of last year's pace, and progress exceeded the 5-year average in the Red River Valley. In Minnesota and North Dakota, harvest accelerated early in the month and remained active throughout the remainder of the month, as mostly dry weather and favorable piling temperatures assisted progress. In Idaho, wet weather and above-normal temperatures delayed harvest early in the month. After midmonth, rain frequently halted progress in Michigan. On October 28, harvest was 87% complete in the four major sugar beet-producing States, and virtually complete in the Red River Valley.

The sunflower harvest progressed well behind last year's pace during most of the month and was 75% on October 28, compared with 80% at the same time a year ago. Harvest was aided by mostly dry weather across the Great Plains, but trailed the 5-year average in North and South Dakota throughout the month.